

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4731

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4407

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP, ETEL, KS

SUBJECT: KBS EXPANSION

REF: SEOUL 4366, AIRGRAM 145, MAY 29, 1974

1. REFERENCED MESSAGE DESCRIBES ROKG REQUEST FOR US ASSISTANCE IN FINANCING PURCHASE OF LARGE AMOUNTS NEW TRANSMITTING AND RELATED EQUIPMENT FOR KBS.
2. WE HAVE DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH SOURCES CLOSE TO KBS, MCUI AND UNC J-6 FREQUENCIES OFFICE IN ATTEMPT DETERMINE ROKG MOTIVATION TOWARD WHAT APPEARS TO BE MASSIVE UPGRADING ENTIRE KBS NETWORK. HAVE ALSO ATTEMPTED DETERMINE FINAL SHAPE OF KBS WHEN NEW EQUIPMENT IN PLACE. LATTER QUESTION DIFFICULT TO ANSWER SINCE EVEN OUR BEST KBS CONTACTS ARE RETICENT ABOUT PLANS.
3. HOWEVER, IT APPEARS ROKG DETERMINATION UPGRADE STEMS DIRECTLY FROM RECENT EVIDENCE NORTH KOREA INTENDS INCREASE POWER ITS OWN RADIO OUTPUT BOTH OVERT AND CLANDESTINE (REF. B). SINCE THERE ARE ALREADY SEVERAL "POCKETS" THROUGHOUT KOREA IN WHICH KBS SIGNAL CANNOT BE HEARD, SINCE PYONGYANG CAN BE HEARD CLEARLY IN MANY OF THESE POCKETS AS WELL AS IN OTHER AREAS WHERE KBS SIGNAL ONLY PASSABLE, AND SINCE INCREASE IN PYONGYANG'S POWER AS INDICATED BY REF B. WOULD PRODUCE AN NK SIGNAL WHICH ROKG ENGINEERS ESTIMATE COULD BE HEARD EASILY THROUGHOUT SOUTH, ROKG DECIDED TO UPGRADE KBS ON CLOSE TO CRASH BASIS.

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4. AT MOMENT IT DOES NOT APPEAR ANY EQUIPMENT REQUESTED IN REF. A

WILL BE USED FOR JAMMING. RATHER, ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE INCREASE
KBS POWER TO "DROWN OUT" PYONGYANG IN SOUTH.

5. INFORMATION FROM ALL SOURCES INDICATES UPGRADING WILL BE ACCOM-
PLISHED BY COMBINATION OF REPLACING SEVERAL EXISTING TRANSMITTERS
WITH NEW, HIGHER-POWER EQUIPMENT PLUS ESTABLISHMENT OF TOTALLY NEW
TRANSMITTERS ON SEVERAL SELECTED SITES. MOST OF NEW SITES APPEAR
TO BE ALONG LENGTH OF EAST COAST AND INLAND PLUS CHUNCHON PUKTO
AND CHOLLA PUKTO. NEW 1500 KW SITE WILL BE AT KIMJE.

6. WILL REPORT MORE FULLY BY AIRGRAM.

7. DEPARTMENT PASS USIA.
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